



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held March 8, 2005, the Board took the following action:

52-B

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“For many years the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has leased land near Alderbrook Drive in the Newhall area of Santa Clarita to Hank Arklin. In order to buffer his use of the property from adjoining residences, about fifteen years ago, Mr. Arklin planted a row of California pepper trees. The trees have grown quite tall and create an attractive aesthetic feature adjacent to homes.

“Mr. Arklin’s lease is expiring in the near future, and MWD representatives have requested that Mr. Arklin return the property to its original condition. Conversations between MWD and Mr. Arklin led to the contemplation of removing the pepper trees. Nearby residents would like for the trees to be preserved.

“There are several parties involved in the debate concerning the pepper trees. The MWD’s mission is to deliver water to Southern California, and the pepper trees may have an impact on its current and future operations. Whereas MWD’s facilities are located underground, a developer is asserting surface rights to the property. Residents are concerned about maintaining an aesthetically attractive row of trees that will remain as a buffer from future uses on the property. Given the expressed willingness of all parties to resolve the issue in a positive manner, it would appear that these interests can be resolved fairly.

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“MWD representatives have responded positively to inquiries from my office, Mr. Arklin, local residents, and the City of Santa Clarita. In particular, I commend Mr. Gilbert Ivey, the Interim Chief Executive Officer of MWD, for his willingness to engage in a constructive discussion concerning this issue. While the initial discussions have been encouraging, it is nevertheless important that the Board of Supervisors affirm its commitment to the preservation of the pepper trees.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Executive Officer of the Board was instructed to send a letter to the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) encouraging continued dialogue with interested parties to preserve the California pepper trees on MWD property located near Alderbrook Drive in the Newhall area of Santa Clarita.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Letter sent to:

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Water District